

the folks that take over during hurricane disasters.

Steve will be remembered most for the 30 years as Chief of the Cleveland Volunteer Fire Department, for that firefighter spirit that he had, and that unwavering devotion to his firemen.

Today, Chief Steve Wheeler answered his last call. Flags will be lowered; the final radio call will be made; and the final fire bell will be rung.

Our prayers go out to the Wheeler family, the Cleveland Fire Department, and the good people of that entire community.

Steve Wheeler—fireman, father, fine Texan.

And that's just the way it is.

#### RECKLESS SPENDING

(Mr. BUCHANAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, the House will vote today on a Federal budget that borrows, taxes, and spends more than any other budget in history. Tax increases and deficit spending on big government programs won't help the economy. It will discourage job creation and burden families in the future for additional generations.

We can't spend our way back in terms of the recession and we can't borrow our way out of debt. The budget before us today would increase spending by \$1.9 trillion over the next 10 years, raise taxes by \$1.4 trillion, and add \$3.3 trillion in new debt.

This is reckless spending masquerading as sound budgeting. What our country needs is a responsible budget that scales back spending and borrowing; a budget that will strengthen our economy and put Americans back to work; a budget that will leave our children and grandchildren with better opportunities than we had.

#### WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO FIND SOLUTIONS

(Mr. REICHERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REICHERT. Let's just talk about common sense. Budgets are about priorities. They're not just blueprints, but plans on how to achieve goals. Just as families sit down at the kitchen table to map out how to make ends meet to save for college education or their retirement, so too must the government put forward a responsible budget.

This budget identifies important priorities—economic recovery, health care, and energy independence—but I'm concerned. This budget spends too much, borrows too much, and taxes too much.

We must offer tax incentives to invest and create jobs, not raise taxes on job creators and small businesses. We must reduce wasteful spending, not increase the debt by \$9 trillion.

We must work together to find solutions to the challenges before us, not halt progress with "politics as usual."

Despite calls to work together, this budget could permit a government-run health plan to be rammed through Congress without real consideration to protect seniors or the patient-doctor relationship. It's not about big government. It's about families, it's about small businesses, about entrepreneurship.

Let's oppose this budget and advance one that reflects the values found at kitchen tables across our country.

#### OPPOSITION TO THE DEMOCRATIC BUDGET

(Mr. McCAUL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McCAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong opposition to the budget resolution that the majority is forcing on this House and the American people. This budget is an irresponsible and unwise increase in Federal taxes with borrowing and spending that will double the national debt and place a \$50,000 burden on each American.

The budget proposes to spend nearly \$4 trillion over the next year that America simply doesn't have. It also lays the groundwork for radical changes that will further prolong this recession by increasing government control of health care and increasing taxes on small businesses and anyone who uses electricity or gasoline.

This budget maxes out America's credit card and buries future generations in a mountain of debt. This budget and its massive increase in borrowing and spending will lead to higher taxes and return us to big government.

Simply put, Republicans want more freedom for Americans. Democrats want more government control over our lives.

#### FREEDOM AND THE BUDGET

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, if one looks to the exceptionalism of America, one finds that at its base is freedom. We've always had an agenda for freedom—freedom with responsibility.

Today, we have a budget that's made up of numbers. People wonder how does that somehow have anything to do with freedom. Well, if you spend too much, if you tax too much, if you borrow too much, what it means is you give greater and greater power to the Federal Government, to elected representatives, to nonelected bureaucrats to make decisions for you and your life, not only today, but in the future.

For the young people that are listening, they ought to understand that the impact of this budget today will be far greater on them than it will be on me. Why? Because we are about to embark on a budget that will give us more debt

than at any time in the history of America. And we and those of us who are here will not live long enough to pay it off.

The young people are the ones that are going to pay for it. They are in fact going to have less freedom rather than more freedom unless we come to our senses and vote for a budget that is consistent with the American agenda of freedom.

#### HONORING SECRETARY MIKE DIBERARDINIS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I come to the floor today to honor a man that exemplifies public service—a man that hails from the big city of Philadelphia, but who has had a profound impact on my rural district.

Secretary Mike DiBerardinis has served the Rendell administration and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with distinction for the past 6 years as the head of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, or DCNR.

While I have only had limited interaction with the Secretary personally, his work for the Pennsylvania Wilds Initiative—a nature tourism program that encompasses my district—speaks volumes about his character and his dedication to rural Pennsylvania.

Under the Secretary's leadership, DCNR has taken the PA Wilds from a concept to a budding program, highlighting the beautiful landscape and the many attractions of central and northwestern Pennsylvania. From hiking, to biking, to backpacking, and skiing, Pennsylvania Wilds has it all.

In fact, this past summer, the Secretary was in my hometown breaking ground on the State's first Nature Inn, in Bald Eagle State Park—adding yet another component to an already robust State park system.

So while tomorrow is the Secretary's last day at the helm, I want to say thank you. Thank you for your service to rural Pennsylvania. Your leadership and vision has made a lasting impression.

#### PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 85, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 316 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 316

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for